

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/718,942

Examiner

Jalatee Worjloh

Applicant(s)

HIND ET AL.

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3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 08/15/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 23,24,30-37 and 40-47.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Jalatee Worjloh
Patent Examiner
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1. Claims 23,24, 30-37, and 40-47 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Marcia Doubet on October 27, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 23 (currently amended): A computer program product for providing an auditable trail of product transfers, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code for computing, for each transfer of a particular product, a globally-unique identifier for the transfer and a cryptographic signature over one or more values describing the transfer;

computer-readable program code for recording, for each of the transfers, the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and zero or more of the values in an ownership transfer record in a product-integral ownership repository on the particular product, wherein the ownership transfer record is access-protected using control fields to dictate which of

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the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the zero or more of the values are updateable and which are not;

computer-readable program code for recording an audit record for each of the transfers in an audit repository, wherein the audit record for each of the transfers comprises the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the one or more values describing the transfer; and

computer-readable program code for tracing transfers of the particular product using each of the audit records that pertains to the particular product.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A method for providing an auditable trail of product transfers, comprising steps of:

computing, for each transfer of a particular product, a globally-unique identifier for the transfer and a cryptographic signature over one or more values describing the transfer; recording, for each of the transfers, the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and zero or more of the values in an ownership transfer record in a product-integral ownership repository on the particular product, wherein the ownership transfer record is access-protected using control fields to dictate which of the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the zero or more of the values are updateable and which are not;

recording an audit record for each of the transfers in an audit repository, wherein the audit record for each of the transfers comprises the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the one ore more values describing the transfer; and

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tracing transfers of the particular product using each of the audit records that pertains to the particular product.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A system an auditable trail of product transfers, comprising:

means for computing, for each transfer of a particular product a globally-unique identifier for the transfer and a cryptographic signature over one or more: values describing the transfer;

means for recording, for each of the transfers, the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and zero or more of the values in an ownership transfer record in a product-integral ownership repository on the particular product, wherein the ownership transfer record is access-protected using control fields to dictate which of the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the zero or more of the values are updateable and which are not;

means for recording an audit record for each of the transfers in an audit repository, wherein the audit record for each of the transfers comprises the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the one or more values describing the transfer; and

means for tracing transfers of the particular product using each of the audit records that pertains to the particular product.

Claim 38 (canceled).

Claim 43 (canceled).

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is US Publication No. 2004/0128516 to Okamoto et al.

Okamoto et al. disclose a method/system for providing secure distribution of value-bearing instruments including tickets. Okamoto et al. system creates a unique digital signature for each transaction. The signature along with other ticket content is recorded as a manifestation of a secure binary string. Okamoto et al. fails to teach computing, recording for each of the transfers, the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and zero or more of the values in an ownership transfer record in a product-integral ownership repository on the particular product, wherein the ownership transfer record is access-protected using control fields to dictate which of the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the zero or more of the values are updateable and which are not as recited in independent claims 23, 30, and 32. Additionally, modifying Okamoto et al. to include these features would destroy the operation of the reference.

Conclusion

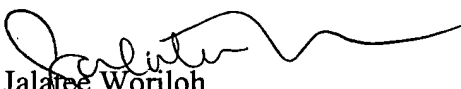
4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
- US Patent No. 6591252 to Young discloses a method and apparatus for authenticating, archiving information and updating ownership of unique items by associating a unique identifying code with the item.
 - US Publication No. 2003/0024988 to Stanard discloses a system for providing evidence of payment wherein each transaction imitated through the system is assigned a unique.
 - US Publication No. 2004/0015713 to Abe et al. discloses a data transfer system.
 - European Patent No. EP 0936805 A1 to Gupta discloses a document transfer system.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jalatee Worjloh whose telephone number is (571) 272-6714. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays 8:30 - 7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Fischer can be reached on (571) 272-6779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Jalatee Worjloh
Patent Examiner
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October 30, 2006